purchase of IV fluids by Safdarjung Hospital during 1990-92, which were directed to start functioning with effect from 20.9.1997. The terms of reference of the first Committee, inter-alia, include identification of gaps and deficiencies in existing procedures/systems; to examine whether equipments purchased by the hospitals remain unutilised for long periods of time and identify the reasons for the same and to suggest remedial measures.

The second Committee shall, inter-alia, ascertain the authenticity of allegations of purchase during the aforesaid years about the purchase of contaminated IV fluids at exorbitant prices by Safdarjung Hospital, to fix responsibility on the persons responsible for the same and to suggest remedial measures. The Committees have been asked to submit the reports within 4 months of the commencement of their work.

Infrastructure Facilities

144. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ. D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of infrastructure projects on power sector cleared by the Cabinet Committee during 1997; and

(b) the arrangements made by the Government to ensure investment flow into the infrastructure sector both for Public and Private sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Simhadri Thermal Power Project (1000 MW), Faridabad Gas Based Project (400 MW) of NTPC and North Eastern Regional Load Despatch Centre of POWERGRID have been accorded Cabinet clearance during 1997.

(b) to ensure investment flow into the power sector, Government has streamlined and simplified the procedure for clearances. The power sector is a priority sector for public sector funding in the Ninth Plan. The Bill for setting up of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions has been introduced in the Parliament. The enactment of the Bill would help the States to generate additional resources for the investments as well as enable higher comfort levels to the IPPs. Financial Institutions have also been requested to relax the norms of lending to the power sector.

Vocational Training Institutes

145. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Vocational Training Institutes for which the Government have accorded sanction during the last three years in the country, State-wise essentially in Kerala and the assistance provided to such institutions so far;

(b) the number of Vocational Training Institutes applied for sanction and the number of pending cases with the Government; and

(c) the reasons for not according sanction to the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The Central Government is not implementing any Scheme under which sanction or financial assistance for opening up of new Industrial Training Institutes/Centres is given to the State Governments. Such centres are approved by the respective State Governments. However, under the World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project currently under execution, financial assistance on matching basis has been provided for seating up 89 new Women ITIs or for opening additional wings in existing ITIs exclusively for training of women. Five such ITIs for women are being set up in Kerala.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Purchase System in Government Hospitals

146. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :
SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been rampant corruption prevailing in the purchase of medicines, bandages, gauze and other items in the Central Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of cases came to light during the last three years and the action taken on each case;

(c) whether the CBI has taken the samples of bandages, medicines, etc. from hospitals recently for testing;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the testing of the samples;

(e) the steps taken to streamline the purchase system of medicines and other items by the hospitals in Delhi to check cases of frauds and corruption;

(f) whether the hospitals are floating tenders for the purchase of bedsheets and towels rather than to make purchases from the reputed manufacturers or through the Kendriya Bhandar/Super Bazar; and